

The Tyngsborough Highway Department is please to issue this information to the residents. The intent of this information is to advise Tyngsborough residents of the Highway Department's winter snow plowing and sanding objectives and to obtain your assistance so that town roads can be restored to "normal conditions" as promptly as possible after a winter storm. Your cooperation is essential if the Highway Department is to achieve this objective. With your assistance and patience, we will be able to provide you with the important functions of our winter maintenance operation, i.e. get roads, keep traffic flowing and restore roads to safe traveling conditions. The Highway Department thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

#### Winter Parking Ban:

In accordance with Chapter 33 of M.G.L., accepted by the Town of Tyngsborough, any parked vehicle impeding the removal of snow may be towed at the resident's expense. The parking ban will allow the Highway Department to plow and open roads in a more efficient and timely manner.

Illegally parked vehicles are the biggest obstacles to effectively removing snow from the roadway.

Questions regarding parking restrictions should be referred to either the Tyngsborough Police Department or to the Tyngsborough Highway Department. The Highway Department hours are Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Contact the Highway Department at (978) 649-2310; the Police Department at (978) 649-7504 (non-emergency line).

#### Snow Plowing Operations:

The following is a general description of Tyngsborough's snow removal plan. As you are aware, each storm is different but the Highway Department makes every effort to follow the snow removal police as closely as possible. The snow and ice removal police entails 3 steps: the beginning of the snow storm; during the snow storm; and following the snow storm.

#### Step One – the beginning of the snow storm

When a snow storm begins, the Highway Department responds by sanding and salting the main roads, hills and bus routes. Sanding these roadways serves two purposes – to prevent the snow from bonding and compacting to the pavement and to keep traffic moving. The Town has 8 sanding trucks properly equipped with sanding materials for this operation.

#### Step Two – during the snow storm

Plowing operations begin when at least 2 – 3 inches of snow accumulates on the ground. 11 Highway Department vehicles are equipped for plowing and approximately 25 private contractors may be called in to assist with snow removal operations. Each vehicle is assigned to a pre-determined route and will remain in the assigned pattern until the storm subsides.

The main objective during any storm is to keep the roadways passable. At the end of the storm, the plows will begin to widen all roads by pushing back the amassed snow beyond

the edge of the roadway. Residents may want to wait until the roads have been widened before clearing the entrance of their driveways.

Please be advised that snow must not be shoveled or plowed “back into the street” from a resident’s driveway. As voted at a prior Annual Town Meeting, the Tyngsborough’s Town By-Law, Article 38 states, “No person, other than an employee acting for or in behalf of the Town, shall by himself or herself or through his/her agents, servants of employees, in any manner place or deposit or cause to be placed or deposited any snow, other than incidental amounts thereof, on any public sidewalk, street or way which has been previously cleared of snow by the Town. Violations of this section may be enforced by the Highway Superintendent, the Building Inspector, or the Police Department, by non-criminal disposition as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D as the same now is or may hereafter amended. Penalties for such violations shall be \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for each subsequent offense.”

The Highway Department staff is well trained and dedicated to plow around the clock, if necessary, to keep the roadways open and passable. If a plow truck is riding with its plow up, please do not be misled. They may be returning to the garage for fuel or repairs or might be headed to another section of town to assist with snow removal. Please be advised that Middlesex Road and Pawtucket Boulevard are maintained by Mass Highway Department.

Residents should not be concerned if they do not see their roadway plowed during the early part of a snow storm. The Highway Department follows an assigned route plan where main roads and hills are plowed first. Please be patient, all town owned roads will eventually be plowed.

Another area of concern is mailboxes. We do not “deliberately” knock over or damage mailboxes. Remember, an installation within the right-of-way (including mailboxes) is placed there at the owner’s risk. Hence, residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the pavement. Mailboxes should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secured properly and that wood posts are not rotted out.

#### Step Three – following the storm

Once the snowfall has stopped and all roads are cleared of snow, post-storm sanding and salting commences. All roads are sanded and salted to improve traction and melt the remaining snow and ice.

#### Residents Can Help

Residents can assist the Highway Department during a snow storm by heeding these suggestions:

1. Observe winter parking bans.
2. Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
3. Remain off the road during snow storms unless absolutely necessary.
4. Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of the road.
5. Do not plow, blow or throw snow back into the roadway.

6. Before final cleanup of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a plow will return to plow again, and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.

7. Finally, please have patience. Snow plowing is a time consuming and laborious job covering 80 plus miles of road. Some residents will have their roads plowed first and some will be last, but all town roads will be cleared.

The Highway Department is devoted to providing the residents with dependable snow removal in the shortest time possible. With your cooperation, we will all benefit during a snow storm.

**\*\*Residents can pick up free sand at the entrance of the Highway Garage.\*\***

If you have any questions concerning the snow removal policy, please call (978) 649-2310. We will try to assist you in any way possible.